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FASHIONS IN FANS.

HAT favorite implement of coquetry, the fan, is now restored to its former place of importance as a necessary and picturesque adjunct of the evening costume. In the opera box or at the fashionable dance the fan is most in order, and women who know the value of all such accessories are now spending much thought in addition to the necessary financial expenditure on securing precisely the right sort of fan to set off each costume.

More picturesque, perhaps, than any of the other fans which are now in favor is the large ostrich fan, in black or white, which is so striking an addition to the evening costume. A tall brunette wearing a long, slimpsy white gown of satin and spangles and carrying a huge black ostrich fan is as effective a figure as one might desire to see, and, be it noted, the fan, like everything else which the fashionable woman selects for her personal use, is chosen with a very distinct idea of what is becoming to her as well as what is suited to her costume.

The black ostrich fans have sticks of ebony and tortoise shell and the white ones are mounted on sticks of ivory, mother of pearl and amber. Some of the sticks are set with jewels or embellished with gold and colored enamel, but many of the fans considered most desirable have the plain sticks; with the monogram of the owner wrought in diamonds running down one of the frames.

More expensive than the ostrich fans, although not so effective, are those of exquisite and most valuable lace mounted on gold and ivory sticks, the latter being embellished with gold and jewels. These fans may be as valuable as one likes, for the gold sticks carved by hand may represent the work of superior artists both in design and execution.

Jewels of value may be used in the setting, and the lace itself may be of the most precious quality, for not even in a cabinet may a rare example of the lacemaker's art be shown to better advantage than in one of these fans.

The French painted fans are also extremely fashionable, and here also the person of extravagant taste who has also a love for the beautiful may expend whatever sum she cares to upon these accessories of the toilette, which often are at the same time works of art of a high order.

The designs of these French fans, whether painted on heavy silk or vellum, are much like those used by the great French painter who first elevated the decoration of the fan to a position among the fine arts. Gold and spangles are worked into the design, or rather are used to frame the various motifs of the design, and the sticks of the fan, of gold or ivery, are carved or embellished with enamel or encrusted with jewels.

There are also black gauze fans trimmed with gold spangles or embroidery or with rather heavy trimming of braid, and these are most effective with certain costumes. A feather fan which has also met with much favor is made of eagles' feathers, supposedly, although it is barely possible that the plumage of less regal birds enters into its composition. This fan is mounted on amber or tortoise shell and is extremely effective.

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